

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are presently active; Claims 7-15 having been withdrawn by a Restriction Requirement, and Claims 1 and 4 having been amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by van Halterren et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,084,972). Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Halterren et al in view of Weber (U.S. Pat. No. 4,491,972). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Halterren et al in view of Weber and further in view of Takada (U.S. Pat. No. 4,255,716). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Halterren et al in view of Weber and further in view of Van Der Plaats (U.S. Pat. No. 3,810,032). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Halterren et al in view of Weber and further in view of Akino (U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,048).

Firstly, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Lao and Primary Examiner Nguyen to conduct an interview for this case on May 20, 2004. During the interview, the issues identified in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. Clarifications to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection to Claim 4 were discussed and agreed to. Further, Applicant's representative pointed out that the capacitors 8 or 9 in van Halterren et al, identified in the outstanding Office Action as capacitors having a first electrode to which the output of the amplifier is applied,¹ are connected from an output of the amplifier 110 to the ground connection 7. With regard to Applicant's Figure 1,

¹ Office Action, page 3, lines 9-11.

Application No. 09/620,595
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2004

Applicant's representative pointed out that capacitor CX (external to the amplifier) has a first electrode to which an output of the amplifier is applied, and a second electrode connected to the side of electret capacitor EC that is off ground. As indicated on the Interview Summary Sheet by the examiner's summary of the discussions, clarifying changes were discussed with respect to Claim 1 that were believed to overcome van Halterren et al.

Accordingly, submitted herewith are those changes to Claim 1 discussed during the interview. Given the understanding reached during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the applied prior art.

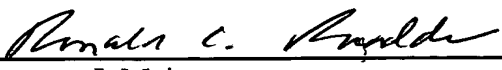
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
GJM:RAR:clh



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618

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